16. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

17. With a view to given a boost to be manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing Industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will accordingly apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.

18. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs. 50 crores.

19. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

20. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

21. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

22. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce throgh internet.

Surrender of phone due to rental hike

2353. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the hike in rental charges by the department, lakhs of telephones have been surrendered;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the other reasons for surrendering the telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There has been no hike in rental charges during the current financial year 2002-03.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The possible reasons for surrendering of telephones are as under:—

(i) Switching over from landline to cellular and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) phones.

(ii) Surrendering of extra telephones due to improve availability and reliability of phones.

(iii) Recession in economy and other financial reasons.

(iv) Closure of firms.

(v) Shifting/transfer of customers to other places.

(vi) Surrender of OYT and Tatkal Category telephones to get refund of deposit on account of improved availability of telephones in general category.

(vii) Personal reasons (Death, Retirement, marriage etc.)

Status of FDI in telecom sector

2354. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of FDI in the telecom sector and its limits and whether Government propose to enhance the limit;

(b) whether the recent phase of acquisitions and mergers given way to the growth of MNCs in India;